

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. New claims 56-67 are presented for consideration. The structure in claim 56 is supported, for example, by Figs. 3, 6 and 27-29, and page 10, lines 33-35.

Claims 56-67 do not include the term "fine", which was found objectionable in the rejection for indefiniteness. Therefore this rejection is rendered moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

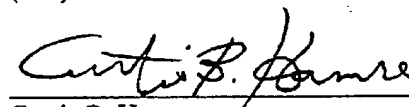
The Black reference cited in the rejections for anticipation and obviousness in the Office Action neither discloses nor suggests the structure particle-X1-R1-Y-R2-X2 required by claim 56. Page 8 of the Office Action suggests that the previous arguments by Applicants did not reflect the actual disclosure of the reference. Applicants respectfully disagree, and believe that the disclosure at paragraphs 0093 and 0107 shows that their interpretation, i.e. the coating 6 has functional groups at both ends and is bonded to both the substrate 1 and the particles 3, is correct. In any event, the reference does not suggest the structure recited in claim 56.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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